

Factsheet – The five welfare needs

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires anyone who owns or looks after an animal to provide everything that the animal needs to be happy and healthy. These needs can be described as:



A suitable place to live

Animals should have the right type of home, including shelter, enough space, and somewhere comfortable to rest and hide.



A healthy diet

Animals should have access to fresh, clean water all the time and should be given the right type and amount of food to keep them fit and healthy.



The ability to behave normally

Animals should have enough space and the right kind of facilities to allow them to behave normally.



The company he or she needs

Animals should be given appropriate company. Some animals should have company and some should be kept on their own.



To stay healthy

Animals should be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease and should be treated by a vet if they are sick or injured.